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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Confirmation No. 1179

Grube et al.

Filed

December 22, 2000

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal

TC/A.U

2839

Examiner

Neil Abrams

Docket No.

276440-11

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of December 22, 2004, the shortened statutory period for response to which ends after March 22, 2005, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.

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